

American Citizens Services

U.S. Interests Section-Havana

Consular Warden Message No. 7, 2008

This message expires on Saturday, November 8, 2008

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Date: 6 November 2008

Subject: Tropical Storm Paloma

This Warden Message is issued to alert American citizens residing in or traveling to Cuba that:

- U.S. National Weather Service has announced that as of 1 pm today the center of Tropical Storm Paloma was located 235 miles or 380 km south of Grand Cayman Island and is moving toward the north at about 7 mph (11km/h). The tropical storm is expected to turn to the northeast late on Friday and Saturday and may pose a threat for the central and eastern provinces of Cuba for Sunday (Nov 9) and Monday (Nov 10).
- Paloma's maximum sustained winds are currently near 60 mph (75 Km/h) with higher gusts. Steady strengthening is forecast during the next couple of days and Paloma could become a hurricane tonight or tomorrow. The U.S. Interests Section in Havana recommends that U.S. citizens in Cuba monitor the progress of Paloma, as the storm has the potential to produce heavy rain and wind on the island.
- For up-to-date information on the storm's track, please monitor local television and radio news channels as well as the National Hurricane Center's website <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. The Cuban Meteorological Institute provides Cuban specific weather information at <http://www.insmet.cu>.
- The Interests Section recommends that all United States citizens in Cuba register with the Section's American Citizens Services Unit. Travelers can register their visit in person or on-line by visiting the Interests Section's website at <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov/>. The Interests Section is located in Havana at Calzada between L and M Streets, Vedado; telephone (537) 833-3551 through 833-3559. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In case of an after hours emergency the duty officer can be reached at (53) 5 280-5791.
- The Interests Section will continue to monitor Tropical Storm/Hurricane Paloma's track, and will issue updated messages. U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all times (e.g.

U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that American citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found in the "Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go" pamphlet at:

[http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/hurricane\\_season/hurricane\\_season\\_2915.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/hurricane_season/hurricane_season_2915.html), and on the "Natural Disasters" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies\\_1207.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1207.html). Updated information on travel in Cuba may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Please continue to monitor the Embassy's website for updated information on this and other issues at, <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov>. For further information please consult the Country Specific Information Sheet for Cuba, available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the Interests Section, Consular Section.

